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(NE)

Docket No. 162354

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Yoshihiro SATO

Serial No.: 09/242,561

Filing Date: February 19, 1999

For: Method for Retaining Minute  
Droplet, Reaction and Reaction Vessel

Group: 1655

Examiner: Forman, B.

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

This is in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 30, 2000. Accordingly, this response is due on or before January 30, 2001.

It is respectfully requested that the following amendments be entered to place this application in condition for allowance or better form for appeal.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

21. (Amended) A process for reducing evaporation of a minute droplet comprising the steps of:
- providing a planar substrate;
  - providing [a] an oily liquid layer; and
  - providing a minute aqueous droplet to [in] contact [with] said substrate; said minute